

BACK TO PRABHUPADA

The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

Issue 17, Autumn 2007

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

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"Playing games with the truth": GBC's guru bombshell

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BTP readers force
book withdrawal

**Hardcore Hare
Krishna in Holland**

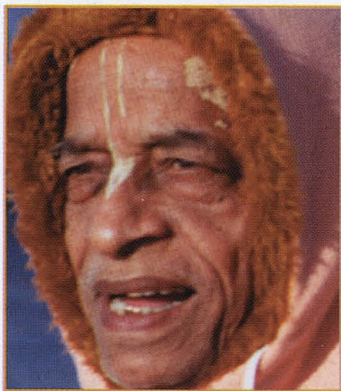
**International
publishing update**

**ISKCON and *sannyasis*:
What Srila Prabhupada said**



Iskcon Revival Movement

The most dangerous cheating



BACK TO PRABHUPADA

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Consciousness (ISKCON)

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Welcome to Issue 17 of *Back to Prabhupada* (BTP). On page 5 of this issue we highlight a very important admission by the GBC, that their abandonment of Srila Prabhupada's *ritvik* system for their guru program was not based on any order from Srila Prabhupada. Though we have been saying this from the very start, it is nice to finally hear the GBC agree with us. Of course, this does not mean the GBC will be making any changes, since they still assume that it is "implicit" (read: 'we have no evidence') that Srila Prabhupada wanted their guru system, even if Srila Prabhupada did not actually order it. One has to admire the chutzpah of the GBC to perpetrate and continue with a guru hoax, whilst admitting they had no order to do so!

Devotees usually cannot believe it when they first hear about the Great Guru Hoax. Their initial reaction is that corruption, cheating and falsity is what one expects to find in the material world, and not in the spiritual movement which is supposed to combat such illusion (please see our "Coming to Prabhupada" story on page 8). Surely the Krishna consciousness movement is the last place one would expect to find such illusion? Actually, throughout history we can understand that hijacking religiosity is a most effective and common form of cheating. Thus we read in the *Srimad-Bhagavatam*:

"When King Indra was taking away the horse, he dressed himself to appear as a liberated person. Actually this dress was a form of cheating, for it falsely created an impression of religion. [...] Indra took up the saffron-colored dress as a way of cheating others. This saffron dress has been misused by many imposters who present themselves as liberated persons or incarnations of God. In this way peo-

ple are cheated. As we have mentioned many times, the conditioned soul has a tendency to cheat; therefore this quality is also visible in a person like King Indra. It is understood that even King Indra is not liberated from the clutches of material contamination. [...] Cheating sannyasis and yogis have existed since the time of Prthu Maharaja's sacrifice. This cheating was very foolishly introduced by King Indra."

(*Srimad-Bhagavatam* 4.19.12)

Following the departure of Lord Chaitanya, His movement was hijacked by various deviant groups, in particular the *prakrtasahajiya-sampradaya*, which made a mockery of Gaudiya Vaisnavism in the name of Lord Chaitanya. Later, after the departure of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, the Guru of Srila Prabhupada, his Gaudiya Matha movement was also hijacked by persons who deviated from his order and made a mockery of the movement, for as Srila Prabhupada states:

"The result is now everyone is claiming to be acarya even though they may be kanistha adhikari with no ability to preach. In some of the camps the acarya is being changed three times a year. Therefore we may not commit the same mistake in our ISKCON camp. Actually amongst my Godbrothers no one is qualified to become acarya."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, April 28th, 1974)

And now, following the departure of Srila Prabhupada, the same hijacking has come to pass in ISKCON, where a mockery is being made of the movement, with cheating, imposter gurus and sannyasis, commercialisation, demigod worship, and yes, also for many devotees, the "acarya being changed three times". Srila Prabhupada explains that the most dangerous cheaters are those who outwardly accept the truth, not those who reject it:

"The Buddhists are called atheists because they have no respect

for the Vedas, but those who defy the Vedic conclusions, as above mentioned, under the pretense of being followers of the Vedas, are verily more dangerous than the Buddhists."

(*Srimad-Bhagavatam*, Introduction)

Therefore, since ISKCON is today deviating from the order of Srila Prabhupada, by their adopting the dress of sannyasis and externally accepting and even worshipping Srila Prabhupada, they are the most dangerous cheaters. For not only will no one suspect that they could be deviating from Srila Prabhupada, but their cheating will have the maximum effect since they are using the power of Srila Prabhupada's name to cheat.

In the world today people are suffering because they are being cheated by various governments, leaders, scientists etc. But that cheating pales in comparison to the cheating endured by devotees in the name of Srila Prabhupada. This is the most dangerous cheating, for here the living entity is actually seeking the ultimate relief from *maya* (illusion), only to find even more *maya*! Consequently, the IRM's priority is to combat this most dangerous cheating, and thereby give devotees the genuine relief from *maya* they are eagerly seeking.

Thus we should not be surprised that Kali (the personification of cheating and illusion) has entered ISKCON, for that is the place it needs to be *most* to thwart Lord Chaitanya's movement. And wholesale deviation from the orders of Srila Prabhupada has ensued, beginning with the Great Guru Hoax.

Please feel free to write to me at the following address if you have any questions, criticisms or comments: irm@iskconirm.com.

Thank you and Hare Krishna.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

Krishnakant

Letters to the editor

“Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya!

Dear Krishnakant, Accept my sincere Pranam.

I sincerely thank Krishnakant Prabhujī, who is making a Herculean effort to legitimise the sacred will of Srila Prabhupada and to preserve it. In fact, we are only truly human while we fight for what is right, this is Dharma; this is the real instruction of Bhagavad-gita, and the accomplishment of the Supreme Will will be triumphant. The fight of Krishnakant, of IRM - Back To Prabhupada - is similar to the one that Von Ihering describes with being an incessant Fight for what is Right. It is done not for a personal purpose but for the good of the collective.

I am sincerely anxious that the Truth will be supreme, prevailing and victorious and that all people can congregate happily around the truth, with the blessings of Swami Prabhupada. Hari OM Tat Sat.”

- Swami Krsnapriyananda Saraswati, Porto Alegre, Brazil

“Well done for exposing these self-serving self-publicists. The picture of Jayapataka Swami on page 13 of your Autumn issue (BTP 13) is grotesque. ISKCON has become a parody of the worst type of institutional religion, extremely distasteful.”

- Patri Das, Wicklow, Ireland

“Are there others who feel like me that Prabhupada is the only Diksha Guru for ISKCON? I hope I am not the only one in Germany, I wish to meet with others, can you help connecting us?”

- Paramshreya Das, Weser, Germany

“It's time for revolution.”

- Atmavijda Das, Abentheur, Germany

“Thank you, and all glories to your service!”

- Nimai Das, Miaoli City, Taiwan

“Dear prabhus, PAMHO. AGTSP. Thank you for this much needed insight into the dealings of Iskcon. Clearly, those of us who have been around for some time will have

recognised the depths of corruption now prevalent within this false guru movement. It comes from the very heart of ISKCON and I have no need to mention names, all who know, know. Your servant & ever well wisher”

- Brahmaloka Das, Watford, England

“Keep it up, you are doing good work to present ISKCON as it is. The work of ISKCON-IRM is very good and I hope it will make ISKCON understand their major problems.”

- C. Chinenye, Watford, England

“Dear Prabhus,

I have received the latest issue of BTP and just want to praise all the hard hitting, fact based logic consistently used in your papers. It is evident from your unwavering position of truth that you have a great sincerity to establish ISKCON upon sound philosophical and sattric principles for the next 9,500 years. Your message has been a source of stable encouragement that I can only begin to realize. I am becoming like a new person again. Enough so it reminds me of the time when I first encountered Krishna consciousness roughly a decade ago. Glory be! Hare Krishna. Your servant”

- Ananta Sesa Das, North Carolina, USA

“Thank you for your great service.”

- Raksana Das, North Carolina, USA

“Hare Krishna, I'm a devotee from Indonesia. I've been receiving the Back To Prabhupada magazine and I really enjoyed it a lot. It's revealing what is going on inside ISKCON. I want to receive a free copy of the book The Final Order by Krishnakant. Thank you so much.”

- Smita Chotrani, Jakarta, Indonesia

“I am a subscriber of the BTP Magazine. I am happy to get it and read it and know the truth. Before reading it, I didn't know that ISKCON is going to be destroyed by some and that Srila Prabhupada is being ignored. I have got to know about that from the magazine. I now want to receive the book The

Final Order to know the truth and clear the confusion.”

- Shuvo Roy, Dhaka, Bangladesh

“I support the ISKCON temple near me but I want to know the truth. Thank you very much, all glories to Srila Prabhupada!”

- Richard De Bon, Belluno, Italy

“Please do send me all old BTP copies as well. This is a great service to Srila Prabhupada, and you are helping the world to be under the real guru shelter rather than the rules of so-called gurus. I wish Krishna and guru parampara will give you more strength. Jaya Prabhupada!”

- Ajay Krishna Das, Bangalore, India

“Haribol, Thank you, Jagat Guru Srila Prabhupada, you have enlightened the human society about the real goal of life. You are the only spiritual master for the entire ISKCON Movement.

Thank you very much IRM for sending this magazine, Hare Krishna.”

- Nithyananda Pattar, Bangalore, India

“I have gone through the contents of the Special Summary Issue of BTP. The revelation is quite stunning. Hare Krishna.”

- Mayapura Chandra Das, Punjab, India

“Well done. Haribol!”

- M. Versino, London, England

“I need your help. I am being cheated. Srila Prabhupada Ki Jai.”

- Ms. Jhanavi, Mumbai, India

“I was a full time devotee from more than 12 years. But I saw that devotees and gurus are not following things as described and instructed by Srila Prabhupada! So I left the temple and started living at home and kept on doing my practices. Thanks for your good work. Please keep it up.”

- Anil Lakhara, Dehradun, India

“I am gratefully appreciative of your devotional efforts, although I both agree and disagree with many points you make...still, your efforts are sincere as far as I can see. Thanks again and best wishes.”

- Jagannatha Tirtha Das, Florida, USA

“Hare Krishna Krishnakant Prabhu! Please accept my humble obeisances unto you.

I am very pleased to see you are doing a great seva to protect our Spiritual Master, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada. I don't know if you remember me when I came to see you many years ago when we had problems with Bhaktivedanta Manor closing down, and I was a Patron member at that time and I arranged a Charity walk with Rishi Kapoor and Sunil Gavaskar. Anyway, after that I have seen you have really carried on our Srila Prabhupada's mission to make sure everyone of his true followers are guided in the right direction. That is what you are doing, making awareness through your publication Back To Prabhupada. You really have managed all this time with Srila Prabhupada's blessings although he is not physically present; but his spirit is with you to prove to the world like he did to make us aware about Supreme Personality of Godhead, Lord Shri Krishna. And now you are following his footsteps to make people aware about him, our true and real Spiritual Master, and not those who so claim they are Gurus and that we should follow them in blind faith as is happening now. As there is a saying, where there is truth and honesty you will no doubt feel that the results are slow, but at the end the result will be there as God is not blind, as he is examining all our actions and at the end He will reward with goodness and glory. Then people will realise that what you are doing is right to go Back To Prabhupada. What you are doing is right and MAY LORD KRISHNA GIVE YOU MORE STRENGTH and with the blessing of Srila Prabhupada's protection you will succeed.

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR TEAM. HARE KRISHNA.”

- Gunvantbhai Changela, Hertfordshire, England

Letters to the editor *(continued from page 3)*

"I am eager to know how IRM can spread fast. I want to know the truths with proofs. Haribol!!"

- Uttama Das, ISKCON Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

"Dear Prabhus,

Many thanks for the Back To Prabhupada Magazine, Issue 13 Autumn 2006. I cannot explain enough how much I value the magazine, I do not have internet so I can only keep in touch with you through this magazine, please keep sending me the magazine. May Lord Krishna and Srila Prabhupada bless you all."

- Bhakta Kishore Thakrar, Birmingham, England

"I enjoy the magazine and find it most interesting and so true to my experience as well...Thank you so much...I hope this finds you in good health."

- Dhamatma Singh, Brooklyn, USA

"Hare Krsna, I would like to have a copy of The Final Order as I would like to know the truth. I am completely convinced that Srila Prabhupad is the only Guru and that whatever the GBC people are doing is absolutely wrong, but I would still like to know what exactly Srila Prabhupad said. I offer my humble obeisances unto you."

- Varun Gautam, Secunderbad, India

"I would like to thank you very much for sending me a copy of Back To Prabhupada magazine. I totally admire your effort in keeping our Spiritual Master alive through the magazine."

- Kanhaiya Das, Washington, USA

"BTP magazine is sent to us by Srila Prabhupada directly himself."

- Lesley Bell, London, England

"According to the verse of Srila Prabhupada 'Man is born as fool'. Likewise after reading this verse, all the disciples who want to be guru are fools. That's all. Hare Krishna."

- Chiranjiv Kumar, Bangalore, India

"Though from 2003 I had been in touch with ISKCON Bangalore, I would still like to know more about Srila Prabhupada. Please send me

The Final Order."

- Laxman Dasar, Karnataka, India

"Thank you very much for sending me a free subscription to BTP."

- H. Gareeb, Natal, South Africa

"I found your magazine quite inspirational to know the truth."

- Nitesh Niraj, Bihar, India

"This is the greatest service you are performing. Haribol!"

- Nistha Kowlessar, Alachua, USA

"Intrigued!"

- Thakur Vipendrasingh, London, England

"Hare Krishna, Prabhupada ki jai. May all human beings avail spiritual wisdom under His Lordship. May the ISKCON Movement flourish forever without any hindrance to the right path, in line with as Srila Prabhupada wished."

- Mr Krishna Kumar, Ajman, UAE

"We wish you all good! And all glory to Srila Prabhupada."

- S.R. Kanagala, Ohio, USA

"Hare Krishna, Hare Rama."

I really appreciate your devotion to this noble cause – benefiting oneself and others. Keep doing it for the sake of the world to be full of love and happiness. It would be my pleasure to receive a subscription offer from your organisation."

- Sachin Arya, Jhansi, India

"Was receiving BTP and much appreciated receiving it. Moved, and since then have not been getting the issues... Thank you for re-opening my free subscription and sending to my new address. Hare Krishna. Srila Prabhupada never appointed anyone to be a guru. That is not the teachings He gave us. Even without all the documentation, letters and recordings appearing around the time of departure. He gave us just the opposite teachings the entire time He was traveling, preaching and taking disciples. A Spiritual master can never be appointed, elected, or assigned. He is acarya by living example. He teaches by his personal example."

The pitiful state of affairs of the managers of ISKCON is deplorable. To so blatantly and arrogantly mis-

represent Srila Prabhupada is criminal. Thank you for exposing this disgusting masquerade.... And presenting the actual orders of Srila Prabhupada.

He appointed Ritviks. When His orders are followed everything will fall into place perfectly. Until that time, trying to develop ISKCON under the present misconception of guru, is like trying to build a building by taking the bricks out of the foundation to build the 4th floor. No sane person will want to take part in such an absurd folly. Srila Prabhupada's ISKCON ki Jaya."

- Meena Devi Dasi, Tennessee, USA

"Well, recently I was in Delhi for a college students conference where I happened to meet a devotee who gave me a copy of Back To Prabhupada. I am quite impressed about the publication and I request that you kindly add my name in your mail list. I like to know more on the revelation about how Srila Prabhupada documented indicating running the mighty ISKCON body."

While praising your glorious services to revive the lost glory of Srila Prabhupada's movement as a genuine, pure and transparent spiritual process, please do advise if I can be of any services to you. Now I am preaching among deaf children using sign language and now over 3 to 50,000 deaf children have benefited in accepting to chant the mahamantra, and they do so in heart and mind even more. Apart from preaching among deaf children, my other areas of service are in giving lectures among college students in I.I.T.s, I.I.M.s, Medical, Engineering and other professional colleges.

It is a relief that there is a movement created at last to preserve the true doctrines and legacy of Srila Prabhupada and thus turning the ISKCON movement into a force of purity."

- Satyadharma Das, Chennai, India

"Hare Krishna! While not a devotee, I have attended various tem-

ples and would like to read more about your organisation. I understand that there have been many serious problems with ISKCON and so I believe your group is vitally important if the work of Prabhupada is to live."

- Jamie Arnold, London, England

"Thank you so much for your prompt mail delivery of the back issues of Back To Prabhupada. They will help us tremendously. It's good to know that you are helping many devotees with their Radha Krishna Consciousness."

- Kevin and Deborah Richman, Vancouver, Canada

"Good job you are doing. This is most useful to the world wide devotees."

- Ratnakaram Srinivas Chakravarty, Andhra Pradesh, India

"There is no question of going Back To Prabhupada. Srila Prabhupada is there forever for IRM."

- G.P. Doraisamy Govindasamy, Penang, Malaysia

"I wish Srila Prabhupada should rule us universally."

- Gautam Banerjee, West Bengal, India

"I am really enlightened by this magazine. IRM is doing a fine job. Can I help and participate in your movement? I will be happy and grateful to do it. Kindly give me a chance to serve Srila Prabhupada. Hare Krishna."

- Gorachand Saha, West Bengal, India

I TOTALLY and STAUNCHLY SUPPORT IRM and all stated aims and goals, and like you all and so many others, I have waited all these long, long years to see our beloved Srila Prabhupada fully restored to his true and glorious status, and our beloved ISKCON fully and permanently restored to its true, original magic and glory! My deepest thanks, and keep up the incredible and wonderful work for the GLORY of Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna! Total Success is Guaranteed! HARIBOL!"

- Mike Eden, Byron Bay, Australia



GBC bombshell: 'We have no guru order'

As stated in the *BTP Special* Issue (proof 6), the GBC had withdrawn their position paper on how they were authorised by Srila Prabhupada to act as *diksa* gurus, *On My Order Understood*, because they accepted it contained "lies". It was this paper that *The Final Order*, the IRM's position paper, defeated, and the GBC officially withdrawing their paper merely confirmed this defeat:

"RESOLVED: "On My Order Understood" is replaced as official GBC policy by the following statement: The GBC officially accepts the following conclusions about continuing the disciplic succession: [...] the GBC concludes that Srila Prabhupada intended his disciples to become "regular Gurus" after he physically departed."

[GBC Resolution 409, 2004]

The entire paper was replaced only with the paper's conclusion, with all the evidence offered to support this conclusion (that Srila Prabhupada can be replaced as ISKCON's *diksa* Guru) simply removed; evidence for which the paper had relied entirely on the May 28th, 1977 conversation. We have now discovered that the GBC were forced to withdraw their paper after agreeing with an analysis of the paper and the May 28th conversation given by **HH Jaydavaita Swami ("JS")** in an e-mail dated December 13th, 2003. This analysis is reproduced in the tinted panels, with JS's quotes from the paper itself prefixed by ">".

Load of bull

>"Srila Prabhupada said he > would give his 'order'..."

Oh, bull! What Srila Prabhupada said was, "Because in my presence one should not become guru, so on my behalf, on my order... Amara ajnaya guru haya. Be actually guru, but by my order." How does that equal "I will give my order"?

So the GBC accept that Srila Prabhupada did not state he will give any order for *diksa* gurus, and it is "bull" to claim otherwise.

No order

>When Srila Prabhupada was >asked who would initiate after >his physical departure he >stated he would "recommend" >and give his "order" to some of >his disciples who would >initiate on his behalf during >his lifetime and afterwards as >"regular gurus," whose >disciples would be Srila >Prabhupada's grand-disciples.

Again, this is what we might reasonably *conclude* from what Srila Prabhupada stated. But it is *not* directly what he stated.

Srila Prabhupada did not order the *ritviks* (officiating priests) to become "regular gurus" and initiate their own disciples.

Never says it

Srila Prabhupada never quite comes out and says: "select some of you to take up the service of initiating new disciples," does he? Yes, I agree it's implicit.

Again, Srila Prabhupada authorising *ritviks* to turn into *diksa* gurus is at best "implicit", meaning it is not Srila Prabhupada's order but the GBC's interpretation.

Jive talking

What he "recommended" some disciples to do was "to act as officiating acaryas."

(TKG: "Is that called *rtvik*-acarya?" SP: "Rtvik, yes.") (from May 28th conversation).

Now, I agree that what His Divine Grace intended by this was that these *rtviks*, after his departure, would initiate disciples on their

own and that this is implicit in the conversation. But then, say so, for crying out loud. Don't try to jive me ...

Again, Srila Prabhupada never stated that the *ritviks* would become *diksa* gurus, but rather it is assumed that it is "implicit" that this was what was "intended".

Only named ritviks

>"After Srila Prabhupada named > some disciples to initiate..."

This is a finesse. To initiate *whom*? In context (events in July 1977), the only straightforward answer is "To initiate people who would then become Srila Prabhupada's disciples."

The only persons actually ordered were *ritviks*, and not gurus.

Wishful fabrication

>"Thus, by delegating that duty >to the GBC, Srila Prabhupada >personally detailed the >procedure for increasing the >number of initiating guru."

Is this an outright fabrication or not? That Srila Prabhupada "personally detailed the procedure for increasing the number of initiating guru[s]" is something we can only wish. Or falsely tell the Society he did."

JS states that Srila Prabhupada never gave the GBC a procedure for increasing the number of initiating gurus, and to say otherwise is just a fabrication. (This, however, did not stop JS from relying on the GBC "increasing the number of initiating gurus" to become a GBC voted-in initiating guru himself, or from allowing his own disciple, HH Kadamba Kanana Swami, to also become a GBC voted-in guru!)

Playing games with the truth

Again, what I object to is that the GBC resolution takes what it wishes us to conclude from the conversation, turns it into a crystal-clear statement, and then tells us that Srila Prabhupada made it. This, to me, is "playing games with the truth."

The GBC's paper was simply pretending that Srila Prabhupada had said what the GBC wished he had said.

Conclusion

This is an amazing admission, since the GBC's guru program is based on the *ritviks* appointed by Srila Prabhupada ceasing to act in this capacity because they were supposedly ordered in the May 28th conversation to transmogrify into *diksa* gurus (Modifications 'A' and 'B' of *The Final Order*). The GBC have now accepted JS's arguments that the May 28th conversation contains no order to this effect, and thus their abandonment of Srila Prabhupada's *ritvik* system is based only on their mind-reading what Srila Prabhupada supposedly "implicitly intended". Since the active principle in spiritual life is the order of the spiritual master (C.c. *Adi-lila*, 12:10), the lack of an order renders the GBC's guru program unauthorised, and thus the *ritvik* system it displaced must be immediately re-instituted in ISKCON.

The very fact that the GBC had withdrawn their position paper and offered no alternative detailing how Srila Prabhupada authorised them to be *diksa* gurus was in itself enough to render their position defeated. That the GBC now accept that this lack of a position is due entirely to a lack of evidence, ensures this defeat is now established as a permanent historical fact.

Quotes, Notes and News (QNN)

Demigod worship spreads to ISKCON Hungary

In the last issue of *BTP*, we showed photographic evidence of the continuing influence of demigod worship in ISKCON, with the altar deities of Radha and Krishna in ISKCON Abentheuer, Germany being dressed and worshipped as Mother Parvati and Lord Shiva. Opposite, we provide yet more photographic evidence of the growing influence of demigod worship in ISKCON, this time at the ISKCON Hungary farm run by GBC voted-in guru HH Sivarama Swami, where deities of Goddess Durga and Lord Shiva (*Shiva-lingam*) were brought in procession into the temple. The temple authorities have justified the worship of these demigods by claiming that they are worshipping them as persons who can help them in their Krishna consciousness:

"Actually we worship Lord Siva as Gopisvara Mahadeva and Yogamaya devi. Lord Siva is the best of the vaisnavas [...] Yogamaya devi can remove the illusion of the material world from us. That's why we worship Them."
(New Vraja-dhama, ISKCON Hungary, August 18th, 2007)

But Srila Prabhupada has not sanctioned the worship of demigods in ISKCON temples, regardless of the reason for worshipping them.

"[...] this Krsna consciousness movement simply advocates worship of Krsna to the exclusion of the demigods."

(*Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 4.31.14 purport)

BTP readers force book withdrawal

Satsvarupa Das / Goswami's ("SD") book *Sanatorium* has been in circulation since 2005, and was even "assigned reading" last year at ISKCON's premier institute of "higher learning", Bhaktivedanta College in Belgium. However,

earlier this Spring, in *BTP* 15, we highlighted that this book contained explicit sexual scenes and references. This forced the GBC's Executive Committee to issue the following statement just weeks after 10,000 copies of *BTP* 15 hit the Vaisnava world:

By the GBC EC – 7/7/07

In response to some devotees concerns regarding his book *Sanatorium*, Satsvarupa Maharaja has given the following comment and has also decided to withdraw from circulation any remaining copies of the book.

Dear Devotees,
Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I have come to realize that my book "*Sanatorium*" contains explicit sexual scenes and references. I am sorry I have written it. I apologize and promise not to write a book like this again.

Yours in service to Prabhupada,
Satvarupa das Goswami

It should be noted from the following explanation regarding the GBC statement, that the GBC

only acted because of "significant numbers" of devotees - meaning *BTP* readers - protesting:

"The statement itself was posted due to significant numbers expressing concern about some of the content of the book..." (Praghosa Das, disciple of SD and GBC member, July 10th, 2007)

The power to kick out the guru hoax and reinstate Srila Prabhupada is in your hands, dear readers.

Why isn't ISKCON guru banned?

As reported in *BTP* 14, devotees who are suspected of believing that Srila Prabhupada is ISKCON's Guru are not even allowed to enter ISKCON's temples in the UK unless they sign a 'Confidential Agreement', titled "Terms and Conditions of entry to ISKCON temples/centres in the UK". One of the clauses of this 'Confidential Agreement' states:

"I will not directly or indirectly make any detrimental or derogatory statements about ISKCON or its members."

HH Jayadvaita Swami, an ISKCON guru, stated the following in his 2006-2007 report to the ISKCON *Sannyasa* Ministry:

"This year certain things done (and not done) by the

GBC body and by some of its members and functionaries have sorely alienated me. I see sustained and determined behavior I look upon as spiritually offensive, philosophically off track, ethically crummy, and pragmatically ill advised."

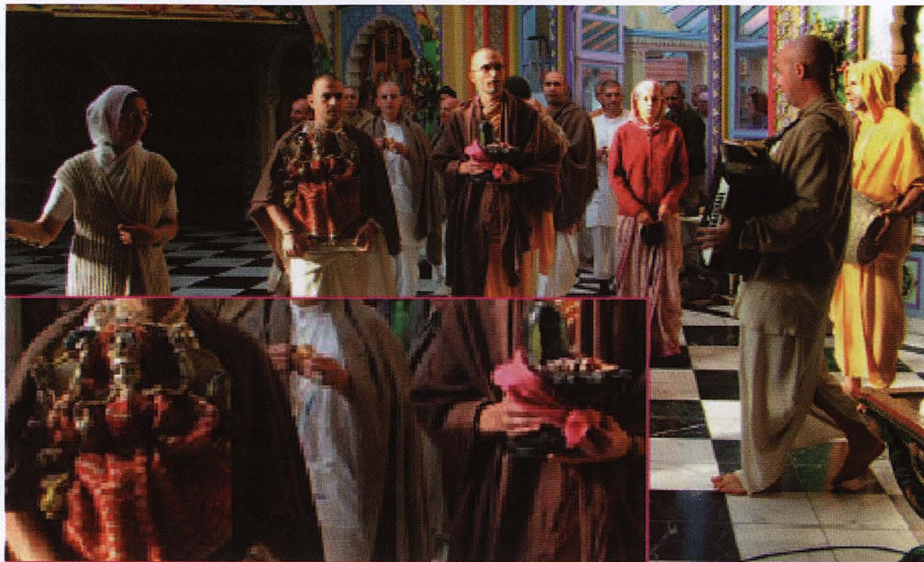
To say that the whole GBC body and some of its members and functionaries are engaging in behaviour which is "spiritually offensive, philosophically off track and ethically crummy", certainly qualifies as "derogatory statements about ISKCON or its members". The GBC, however, have not banned Jayadvaita Maharaja from entering ISKCON temples in the UK, demonstrating the hypocritical double standard behaviour which has been the hallmark of its unauthorised guru program.

GBC continues to lie

"Srila Prabhupada started something revolutionary; a multi-guru system all serving under a governing body."

(Badrinarayan Das, GBC, "Report from the Parallel Lines of Authority Committee", July 7th, 2007)

Now let us see where Srila Prabhupada supposedly "started a multi-guru system". We know it was not with the first 11 guru hoaxers (Great Guru Hoax, part



The ISKCON farm in Hungary introduces worship of Goddess Durga and Lord Shiva

1), because even the GBC have accepted that Srila Prabhupada did not order them to be gurus (please see page 5). And it could not have been the current multi-guru system we have in ISKCON, because this was started solely by the GBC (the Great Guru Hoax, part 2):

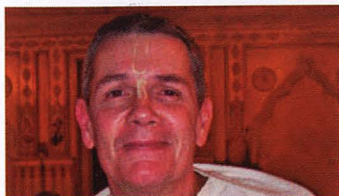
"...any GBC can present a diksa guru candidate before the GBC body. [...] and upon majority approval of the body, he may take up the responsibilities of an initiating guru in ISKCON." (GBC Resolution No. 3, March 30th, 1986)

Note the above is a resolution crafted solely by the GBC, and they make no claim that it comes from an order given by Srila Prabhupada. For as we saw on page 5, the GBC have accepted HH Jayadvaita Swami's argument that to claim that "Srila Prabhupada personally detailed the procedure for increasing the number of initiating guru[s]" is an "outright fabrication".

Therefore, the GBC themselves accept there is no evidence that Srila Prabhupada ordered a multi-guru system, and yet they keep stating this lie, hoping that by repeating this lie enough, people will come to accept this lie. In this they are relying on the teachings of Hitler's propagandist Joseph Goebbels, who said:

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it."

And for the best part of the last 30 years, this Goebellian technique worked, with ISKCON having been conned by the Great Guru Hoax, parts 1 and 2. But the IRM has now destroyed this lie with the truth, and consequently more and more devotees are no longer willing to believe this lie.



Bad Badri:

Following Goebbels's program

Latest guru deviation: Break the regulative principles

"Two different devotees told me that their gurus told them that its O.K. for *grhasthas* to fornicate for fun once a month or so and even go on the altar. Seems very wrong to me, and I try to explain it as such, but honestly I have had experiences that incline me to think that there are devotees more advanced than me in this Society who have different lines to Prabhupada."

(ISKCON GBC guru Hanumatpresaka Swami, 2006-07, *Sannyasa* Report)

We continue to report many ways in which ISKCON today continues to deviate from Srila Prabhupada's orders, in addition to the root deviation of taking his position as the Guru for ISKCON. Here we see one ISKCON guru stating that other ISKCON gurus are telling their disciples to break the regulative principles (in the above case, the regulative principle of "no illicit sex", which Srila Prabhupada defines thus: "Illicit sex means not producing for children but for enjoyment. That is sinful."). Though the ISKCON guru reporting this accepts that such activity is "very wrong", he also excuses it by stating that there may be more advanced devotees who have "different lines to Prabhupada". So not only are ISKCON gurus encouraging their disciples to break the regulative principles, other gurus are also thinking that such activity could possibly simply be an example of "different lines to Prabhupada". Though devotees will naturally be shocked by such deviations, as we have repeatedly stated we should not be surprised any more at any deviation we currently find in ISKCON, when the very movement today is itself founded on the biggest possible deviation - that of removing Srila Prabhupada as the Guru of his own movement!

IRM international publishing update

THE FINAL ORDER ONLINE: UPDATE

BENGALI	চূড়ান্ত নির্দেশ
CHINESE	最后的训令
CZECH	POSLEDNÍ POKYN
ENGLISH	THE FINAL ORDER
FRENCH	LA DERNIÈRE DIRECTIVE
GERMAN	DIE LETZTE ANWEISUNG
HINDI	अन्तिम आदेश
ITALIAN	L'ORDINE FINALE
PORTUGUESE	A ORDEM FINAL
RUSSIAN	ПОСЛЕДНИЙ ПРИКАЗ
SPANISH	LA ORDEN FINAL

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BTP AND THE FINAL ORDER IN PRINT: UPDATE

<p>ENGLISH</p>  <p>BACK TO PRABHUPADA</p>  <p>THE FINAL ORDER</p>		<p>CZECH</p>  <p>Zpět k Prabhupádovi</p>  <p>POSLEDNÍ POKYN</p>	
<p>FRENCH</p>  <p>Retour A Prabhupada</p>  <p>LA DERNIÈRE DIRECTIVE</p>		<p>RUSSIAN</p>  <p>Обратно к Прабхупаде</p>  <p>ПОСЛЕДНИЙ ПРИКАЗ</p>	
<p>DUTCH</p>  <p>Terug Naar Prabhupada</p>		<p>GERMAN</p>  <p>Zurück Zu Prabhupada</p>	

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Hardcore Hare Krishna in Holland



By
**Radha
Ramana Das**
Amsterdam,
Holland

I was born and raised in Holland by parents who were very liberal in allowing me to discover life for myself. It was at age 12 or 13 that I began to question our western lifestyle and all the things I was taught in school, like having a career and pursuing happiness through material enjoyment. I never saw a point in this. I was at a very young age already searching for an alternative to find the answers to life, and got involved in the punk/left wing politics scene and the fight against racism and social injustice. But I never did find any satisfying answers or a real alternative here.

My journey into self-realization started in 1987 after reading an interview with the punk rock (hardcore) band the Cro-Mags in a German punk fanzine called *Zap* magazine. In this interview the band talked about needing a Guru, Lord Krishna and vegetarian food. However, I could not relate the image I had of this band through their videos I saw on MTV with what they were speaking about in the interview. I was growing up in a scene that was totally atheist and strongly against any form of religion, and hence I couldn't understand why this band was speaking about God.

At this time, I lived in a small city in the middle of Holland and had never seen a Hare Krishna devotee in my life. I guess the first time I ever heard the term "Hare Krishna" was in a Dutch song called "Big City" which described life in Amsterdam, and it stated how the "Hare Krishnas" were distributing pamphlets telling how you should be happy but weren't happy themselves, or something like that. But it was to

be some years later before I understood what that song meant! Anyway, after reading the interview I was very interested to find more about this Guru and Krishna so I went to the local library and found some books by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. The first book I read was *The Science of Self-Realization* and what I read in that book totally amazed me - it was something I had never heard before, something they didn't teach you at school, although I had taken classes about religion. The book was saying that you weren't the body and that your true identity is the soul. It was the first time in my life that I read a book and learned something that really made sense to me. It was the strong but easy-to-understand argumentation of Srila Prabhupada that made a big impression on me. I was hooked, and in Krishna consciousness I found both the rejection of the exploitative western lifestyle and an alternative which made sense to me.

It wasn't until 1989, however, that I first came into contact with ISKCON when I went to Amsterdam to get some records with some friends. I bought a few more books and got an invitation for the Sunday feast. I then started visiting ISKCON temples in Europe and finally also started to chant. However, I could not put my finger on it at the time, but something just didn't feel right with ISKCON, and this prevented me from going further. Although I was totally into the philosophy, I could not relate to the ISKCON swamis and "gurus" whose classes I heard. They could not compete with the Srila Prabhupada that I knew from all the books I had read. Further, the movement as I experienced it did not match up with the picture I got from reading Srila Prabhupada's books. The whole experience for me was

strange because I am a very passionate person and when I come into contact with something I am convinced by, my nature is to jump in with both feet, and embrace it fully without reservation. But for some reason, even though I was 100% convinced by the philosophy, with ISKCON I kept my distance.

At the same time I also became a punk rock (hardcore) musician myself and began performing all over Europe. In this way, I also came into contact with devotees who had got initiated because of the whole "Krishna-core" hype which was occurring in ISKCON in the '90s, but most of them subsequently dropped out.

I had come to the conclusion that if I was going to take a Guru it had to be someone like Prabhupada. Superficially, this made me think that therefore it should be a Guru who was born an Indian. Therefore, when near the end of the '90s I came in contact with someone from the Gaudiya Matha and their Indian gurus, I became interested. Srila Prabhupada's departed Godbrother Sridhara Maharaja's organisation was active in Holland, and I began associating with them and attending their Sunday programs. They seemed to be offering "deeper" knowledge than what I had heard in ISKCON. Then the successor to Sridhara Maharaja, Govinda Maharaja, visited Holland, and I spent a week associating with him and the devotees. Since I thought I needed an "Indian" guru, I was encouraged to take initiation from Govinda Maharaja, which I did. However, at the time I remember it feeling cheap since I never thought it would be so "easy" to get initiated. I only had to chant 4 rounds, and the rules were not as strict as those given by Srila Prabhupada.

Having been told both by ISKCON and the Gaudiya

Matha that I could never have Prabhupada as my Guru, I took one which at the time seemed to come as close as possible to Srila Prabhupada, and Govinda Maharaja seemed to fit the bill. I was falsely told that Srila Prabhupada said to his disciples that after he left his body they should go to Sridhar Maharaja for advice and take shelter from him; and that since now that neither Srila Prabhupada nor Sridhara Maharaja were available, I could find the combination of both Sridhar Maharaja and Srila Prabhupada in Govinda Maharaja. But that was something I never saw. In fact, the only proof I got of this was a picture with the three of them together! They told me that Srila Prabhupada merely smashed the western ego and "paved the way", and then Sridhar Maharaja gave us the deep and profound knowledge, and Govinda Maharaja is the combination of both giving us pure love. Interestingly, all other branches of the Gaudiya Matha, such as the Narayana Maharaja group, make exactly the same claim about their "living successors" as well! Somehow, I always felt like they simply used Srila Prabhupada and although they gave him all credit for spreading Krishna consciousness to the western world, they then would add as a proviso that his teachings and "regulations" were not so applicable, and a different approach based only on "pure love" was required. Which was the opposite of what I was thinking, since I was of the opinion that especially in these current times, there should be very

"The Dutch BTP has been well received by many devotees. The Dutch IRM group also now meets regularly and holds programs."

strict regulation and discipline!

After my initiation, I could not help but still feel that my heart belonged to Srila Prabhupada alone, and I remember that every time a lecture mentioned Srila Prabhupada it caught my attention more than any other subject. The *matha* had no real preaching mission in Holland and I got no real instructions after my initiation except that I was part of the "family" now. Which meant that for spiritual guidance I was forced to take shelter of Prabhupada's books again. In addition, many of the members, who were ex-ISKCON, would simply speak of how bad ISKCON and its gurus were, but there was no alternative service which was making me spiritually alive again, or even bringing me closer to Srila Prabhupada. So again, something didn't feel right and after a while I kept my distance again and became disappointed.

So there I was, totally convinced about the philosophy of Krishna consciousness and the teachings of Srila Prabhupada, but without a right "movement" where I could feel at home. So with this disappointment, I fell back into a *karmi* lifestyle and hardly chanted anymore. Yet the respect and appreciation for Srila Prabhupada remained.

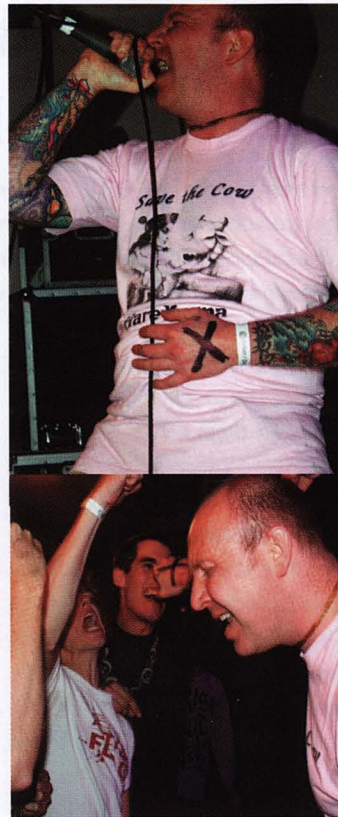
A few years later, I was surfing the Internet and saw an advertising banner saying *Prabhupada Lives* which immediately grabbed my attention. This led to the website of the ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM), and what I read there was shocking! For I could never believe that something like this big Guru Hoax could happen in a movement which I saw as something pure. How wrong and naïve could I have been?! I noticed there was a magazine about the subject and also a book called *The Final Order*. I also obtained the address of the IRM temple in New York, and by strange coincidence I was due to go to New York in about 3 weeks, so I saw it as

Krishna's arrangement and decided to write and ask if I could pick up the magazine and *The Final Order* book when I visited there. The day after I arrived in New York City, I went straight to the temple to get the book and the magazines. The devotee who opened the door was very nice and explained what the Guru Hoax and *The Final Order* were all about. After that, he took me to Tompkins Square Park where there was a plaque, dedicated by the IRM and the Mayor of New York, at the tree where Srila Prabhupada did his first public *kirtan*. I felt ecstatic, and after that we went back to the temple where I got an invitation to the Sunday feast.

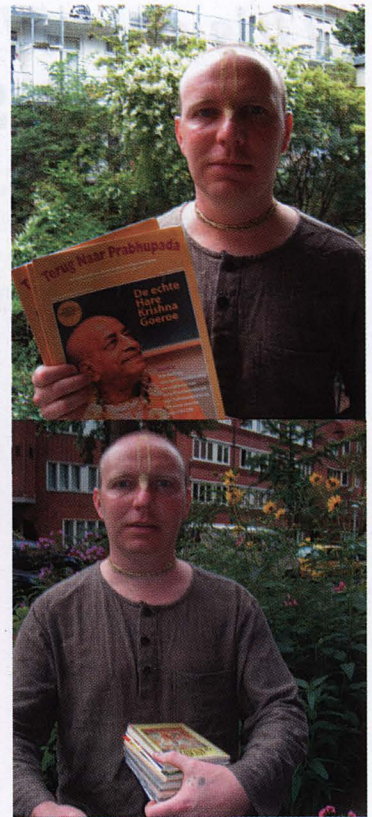
Another great experience was that at the temple I met the person who was kind of "responsible" for getting me interested in Krishna consciousness in the first place, and that was Jayananda Das, the famous singer of the legendary Cro-Mags, the band I mentioned at the beginning of my story (see BTP3 for profile of Jayananda – ed.). That Sunday I went to the Sunday feast and it was the best experience I ever had. After all this time I finally felt like I had come home.

I feel my spiritual life has now truly begun since I found out that Srila Prabhupada is still alive in his teachings, his books and the devotees who are actually following his order. For me it was a great motivation to know that Srila Prabhupada is still available for us as Guru and that made me seriously start to chant my rounds again. Somehow I always felt that Srila Prabhupada was my Guru, but I had to go all the way around first via ISKCON and then the Gaudiya Matha to finally understand it, and thanks to the IRM I got my eyes opened so I finally could see what was going on.

Once I returned to Holland, I got in touch with BTP editor and IRM founder Krishnakant, who put me in touch with other IRM devotees in Holland. Gradually we have come together and set



Radha Ramana Das: Preaching on stage and by distributing the Dutch BTP and Srila Prabhupada's books



up an IRM branch in Amsterdam, and translated and printed the *Back To Prabhupada* Special Issue in Dutch, just in time for the Amsterdam Ratha Yatra festival! Here, myself and others, including Bhakta Jan from Germany, distributed the Dutch BTP which was well received by many devotees. The Dutch IRM group also now meets regularly and holds programs.

Currently, in addition to my career as a musician, I also hold down a full-time job. Every time I do shows with my band I distribute Srila Prabhupada's books. The band is a "straightedge hardcore" band. This means we are a hardcore punk rock band that rejects the self-destructive lifestyle most punk rockers are caught up in. We abstain from any kind of intoxication and meat-eating. So this is where Krishna Consciousness can be preached. I preach on stage to the audience that it's great to have a clear mind but what are you going to do with it? As long as you keep filling your so-called clear mind with all the lies they tell you

on TV and the empty promises the commercials are trying to sell us, our minds and hearts are still polluted. So we have to take advantage of this human form of life, and rise above a lifestyle of greed, selfishness and exploitation. In this way I introduce a lot of hardcore kids to the teachings of Srila Prabhupada, but not without telling them about the IRM and warning them they should not run to the nearest ISKCON temple and get tricked by some self-made bogus gurus, but rather that Srila Prabhupada is their true Guru.

I have gotten so much inspiration from the IRM and have never felt so close to Srila Prabhupada and his teachings before. I hope to ease up on my work commitments to devote more time to help the growing IRM group here in Amsterdam and do whatever is necessary to further the mission of the IRM.

Readers are cordially invited to follow Radha Ramana's example by sending us your story of just how you came 'Back to Prabhupada'.

"This should be strictly outlawed, no more sannyasis": Srila Prabhupada speaks out

In the last issue of *Back To Prabhupada*, we quoted ISKCON GBC voted-in guru His Grace Ravindra Svarupa Das, in his role as GBC Chairman, stating in the *ISKCON Communications Journal* with reference to the *sannyasa ashram* (renounced, monastic order) in ISKCON: **"The renounced order of life has come to be called the denounced order of life - we hear that all the time!"** Below we present some of Srila Prabhupada's instructions regarding the *sannyasa ashram*, beginning with him outlawing the *ashram* in the year of his departure:

Sannyasa ashram outlawed in ISKCON after 1977

"If you talk in the modern society they will laugh: 'What nonsense this man is... 'By sex life one becomes conditioned.' " They cannot understand. Hare Krsna... **This should be strictly outlawed, no more sannyasis.** And those sannyasis who have fallen, you get them married, live like a... No more this showbottle, cheating. It is very ludicrous. Even there is a promise that "We shall not fall down again," that is also not believable. What is the use?"

(Srila Prabhupada Conversation, 7/1/77)

"And this kind of hypocrisy--they have taken sannyasa and mixing with woman. This is not to be allowed. If you want woman you get yourself married, live respectfully. We have no objection. But this hypocrisy should be stopped. There have been so many fallen down. **First of all there will be no sannyasi anymore.** I have got very bad experience. **And at least, we**

are not going to create new sannyasis. And those who have fallen down, let them marry, live like respectable gentlemen. I have no objection. [...] Get one wife and live like a gentleman. Similarly woman. Live with one husband fastidiously, with children. What is the wrong there? We have so many grhastha devotees. [...] But what is this nonsense that you take sannyasa and make relation with...? This should be completely stopped."

(Srila Prabhupada Conversation, 7/1/77)

"And we discussed the sannyasa recommendations. [...] And for next year no recommendations were made."

(Room Conversation GBC Members, 2nd and 3rd March, 1977)

Sannyasis forbidden from business activities

"Business must be done by the grhasthas, not by the sannyasis or brahmacaris."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 22/1/76)

"The brahmacaris and sannyasis must stick to the temple activities."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 4/9/75)

Useless activities for sannyasis

"This is Vedic civilization, not to waste a single moment of life for useless attempt. That is Vedic civilization. Every moment should be utilized. Especially for the human being, it's so valuable. And they are finding out sporting, swimming and surfing—simply all programs of wasting time, especially in the Western countries. How much they have invented, I see only and laugh. The elderly men of your age, of course, maybe my age also, they are swimming and surfing." (Srila Prabhupada Morning Walk, 11/11/75)

"We are not interested in these things like hatha-yoga and swimming. We do not encourage such useless activities." (Srila Prabhupada Letter, 6/1/75)

Sannyasis living at the expense of householders not accepted by Lord Caitanya

"Then this is a hint by Lord Caitanya that a sannyasi who has renounced everything, if he lives very gorgeously, with good dress, and good house, and apartment... No. This is not approved by Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Then what is that? Whatever is absolutely necessary, he should accept, not more. Yes. That is renounced order of life, not that in the name of renounced order of life he should live at the expense of the householders, very gorgeously. No. This is not sannyasa. It is not accepted by Caitanya Mahaprabhu's sampradaya."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 21/11/66)



Below we read a report by disciples of ISKCON GBC voted-in guru, HH Bhakti Caru Swami (BCS), describing him directing business ventures, engaging in swimming, saunas, jacuzzis, and also enjoying the facilities of a householder. We will let the readers decide in light of the above quotes if these activities are compatible with the austere *sannyasa ashrama*:

"There, Guru Maharaja is able to 'take it easy,' so to speak, namely resting, catching up on correspondence, and guiding the various business ventures of (...) prabhu and his associates. Every morning at seven, Guru Maharaja goes down to the indoor pool to swim several laps and spend time in the sauna, one after another, repeatedly for four or five times. [...] On Gurudev's request in the Jacuzzi this morning [...] On a previous day Gurudev whilst sitting in the Jacuzzi [...] This morning Gurudev continued to glorify (...) Prabhu's mother, expressing how nice she was, and how beautiful her home in Beverly Hills was. Gurudev recalled "I swam in the pool in the backyard, it was a nice pool!" (BCS Istagosthi, May 20th/ 27th, 2007)

IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14th 1977, the International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole *diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and *diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page to order your free copy.



Readers' questions and challenges

"You are going against the system of guru, because why don't we keep Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati as guru rather than Prabhupada? Yes, this is because we require a living guru for going to Krishna."
-Srinadh, Andhra Pradesh, India

Editor replies: Firstly, please note that the "system of guru" is whatever our Guru, Srila Prabhupada, says the system is. On July 9th, 1977, Srila Prabhupada issued a signed directive to all GBCs and Temple Presidents establishing the *ritvik* system of managing initiations for ISKCON. Thus, those who disbanded this system without authorisation are the ones who are "going against the system of guru".

We cannot keep Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati, or anyone else for that matter, as our *diksa* Guru for the simple reason that we are only authorised to receive initiation from the current link spiritual master:

"[...] one should approach the current link, or spiritual master, in the chain of disciplic succession."

(*Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 2.9.7, purport)

Srila Prabhupada cannot cease being the current link for ISKCON simply due to his disappearance, when he continues to live as the Guru through his words:

"So although a physical body is not present, the vibration should be accepted as the presence of the Spiritual Master, vibration. What we have heard from the Spiritual Master, that is living."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, 13/1/69)

Rather, to cease being the current link, Srila Prabhupada would need to authorise someone to succeed him as the initiating spiritual master for ISKCON, but there is no record of this having happened.

"What this magazine has done is:

1. Created a doubt in Krishna consciousness itself
2. Led to a rethink of accepting a spiritual master.

Point 2 above causes point 1 (doubt in the entirety of Krishna consciousness itself). Is this the ultimate aim of this newsletter?

-Dean Moodley, Liverpool, England

Editor replies:

A) Krishna consciousness is the process of accepting the bona fide spiritual master, whose name is Srila Prabhupada.

B) Anything which does not preach this, such as the acceptance of rogue, imposter guru hoaxers, is actually anti-Krishna conscious, and takes us away from the process of genuine Krishna consciousness.

BTP very clearly advocates point **A**, and warns people against point **B**.

Therefore, the magazine can only have created a doubt in you about process **2**, accepting a bogus spiritual master, and therefore has created a doubt not in Krishna consciousness, but in a deviant path which is masquerading as Krishna consciousness. Only if Krishna consciousness was defined as NOT accepting the bona fide spiritual master, Srila Prabhupada, could the magazine lead to creating a doubt in Krishna consciousness itself.

Otherwise, I would be very interested for you to explain to me how, after reading the magazine, you came to the conclusion that one should actually REJECT Srila Prabhupada as the Guru, and instead accept unauthorised ISKCON gurus (thereby creating a doubt in the process of Krishna consciousness). Because if this was actually the case, the GBC would be the first persons enthusiastically distributing *BTP*!

"I cut out the pictures of Srila Prabhupada to give to my grandchildren, but the rest is not constructive and does not promote devotees working together to spread Krishna Consciousness. It is a waste of valuable energy to fight with vaisnavas, and it doesn't please Krishna or Srila Prabhupada...and is just symptomatic of the quarrelsome nature of the Age of Kali."

-Mantrini Devi Dasi, Alachua, USA

Editor replies: You say that *BTP* is "not constructive". Firstly, please point out one statement from the magazine which does not state fact or truth. And if everything we have stated is true, then we would simply be preaching the truth about Srila Prabhupada, and every Vaisnava would have to agree that this is the most constructive activity!

As for what pleases Krishna and Srila Prabhupada, fighting for Srila Prabhupada against those who oppose him as the Guru of ISKCON is the most glorious:

"But be victorious to the opposing elements. Then you will praise your Guru Maharaja nicely [...] But you have to fight. Then your Guru Maharaja will be glorified."

(Srila Prabhupada Conversation, 26/12/75)

And how can avoiding preaching that Srila Prabhupada is the Guru, be "working together to spread Krishna consciousness"? How can you have Krishna consciousness without the Guru, since Krishna can only be reached by going through the bona fide Guru?

"[...] so one cannot approach the Supreme Lord without the transparent via medium of the spiritual master."

(*The Science of Self-Realisation*, chapter 8)

And that spiritual master is Srila Prabhupada, not any unauthorised pretender, whether inside or outside of ISKCON.

"You are not real ISKCON devotees, you just want to get some status in the GBC, and you are interested in getting some name. If you really want a revival, why don't you conduct some meetings in which all this can be discussed and make the gurus gain right truth?"

-Jayapataka Das, Aswapuram, India

Editor replies: If we really wanted to "get some status in the GBC", then we would hardly publish a worldwide magazine that exposes the GBC as perpetrators of the biggest religious hoax in history!

You are correct that we should try and make the gurus have the "right truth". But just as important are the many thousands of persons currently being cheated by the unauthorised gurus, and the many thousands more who may get cheated by them in the future. They must also be given the "right truth".

Therefore, we are educating everyone through our publications, meetings, various academic conferences and also official debates, such as the one published under the aegis of Martin Luther University, Germany, which can be accessed from our website homepage by clicking on "Official IRM-GBC Debate" under "Replies to GBC Papers" in our matrix; or directly at the following weblink:

<http://www.iskconirm.com/krishnakirti.pdf>

In this way, everyone, including the gurus, are able to hear the "right truth" for themselves. And then with all devotees back on the right track, the "revival" you speak of will naturally follow.

We welcome all correspondence
Email us: irm@iskconirm.com

New guru, old arguments: Case study of H.H.

One of the most recently added gurus to the ISKCON GBC (Governing Body Commission)'s list of 80+ voted-in gurus is HH Janananda Goswami (henceforward referred to as "Maharaja"). Being a new kid on the block, to try and establish himself, Maharaja has attempted to do something which very few gurus in ISKCON dare to do anymore: attack the IRM's position philosophically in writing. However, in attempting to do so, he has simply recycled the same old discredited arguments, already defeated many years ago. So, in addition to being a "new" guru, he also shows himself to be very new to the debate as well. As usual, we shall enclose his quotes in a box, with our responses following underneath. All his comments are taken from two letters he wrote on the subject, which have been forwarded on to us.

No guru succession

"The conversation with Tamal was referring to the assumption that the 11 rtviks chosen to initiate on Prabhupada's behalf during his presences did not automatically become the next acaryas or initiating spiritual masters. Mostly everyone agrees with this. At the same time that doesn't in any way justify the rtvik philosophy. [...] Mistakes may have been made in how we went about it - jumping in like a bull at the gate. Overwhelmed with the position etc."

1) The 11 *ritviks* DID automatically become the next initiating spiritual masters, and they are still accepted as such today. None of the 11 *ritviks* who unauthorisedly automatically became initiating spiritual masters were ever removed for committing this "mistake", but rather were allowed to authorise new gurus via the GBC's voting

system, of which Maharaja himself is a beneficiary. Rather, apart from those of the 11 *ritviks* who fell down, the others are still regarded today as bona fide gurus whose guru positions were correctly acquired.

2) If the 11 *ritviks* were not automatically meant to become initiating spiritual masters, then obviously they would have to stay as *ritviks*, since there is no authority for them to change their position.

The law – Part 1

"But as a matter of etiquette it is the custom that during the lifetime of your Spiritual master you bring the prospective disciples to him, and in his absence or disappearance you can accept disciples without any limitation. This is the law of disciplic succession" (Letter to Tusta Krishna, 2/12/75) [...] The law of disciplic succession refers to the second part – after the spiritual master's departure one can initiate without restriction. It seems quite simple – maybe too simple for some. Prabhupada once said Krishna consciousness is so simple you may miss it."

Yes, Maharaja does miss a very simple point, that the first and second part of the first sentence in the quote are linked by the simple word "and", and then Srila Prabhupada refers to the whole sentence by saying "THIS" is the "law". And ISKCON definitely have missed this "simple" point since they do not follow this "law", by allowing disciples to initiate in the presence of their gurus. And the "law" only states the time period when it is, and is not, permissible to initiate. What we require is Srila Prabhupada exercising this law by authorising his disciples to initiate, something which Maharaja has just admitted was never done, since the 11 *ritviks*

automatically becoming initiating spiritual masters was actually a "mistake".

The law – Part 2

"Now here are a few other quotes for consideration at least. [...] "Those possessing the title of Bhaktivedanta will be allowed to initiate disciples. Maybe by 1975, all of my disciples will be allowed to initiate and increase the numbers of the generations. That is my program." (Letter to Hamsaduta, 3/12/68) "

Having just quoted a letter from 1975 wherein Srila Prabhupada states it is part of the "law" to NOT initiate in the presence of the Guru, Maharaja then contradicts himself by offering a quote where Srila Prabhupada speaks of initiations happening in 1975 as evidence that *diksa* (initiating) gurus were authorised! Obviously to stay consistent, the above quote can only be speaking of his disciples being authorised to initiate others on his behalf as *ritviks*, since they would be initiating in his presence. And, of course, that is exactly what came to pass in 1977.

For the 350th time - Go home!

"Caitanya Mahaprabhu says, amara ajnaya guru hana tara 'sarva-desa: "O My dear disciples, I tell you that you, all of you, become spiritual master. Simply you carry out My order. That's all." "And what is Your order?" "The order is the same: yare dekha, tare kaha 'krsna'-upadesa [Cc. Madhya 7.128]. (Lecture, 5/9/69) Prabhupada quoted this verse more than 350 times in the books and recordings alone."

Yes, that is correct. However, it does not help Maharaja justify his position of taking disciples, since Srila Prabhupada also explained how one is supposed to execute

the above order in the purports to the above verse:

"Many people come and inquire whether they have to give up family life to join the Society, but that is not our mission. [...] That is, one should stay at home, chant the Hare Krsna mantra and preach the instructions of Krsna as they are given in the *Bhagavad-gita* and *Srimad-Bhagavatam*. [...] It is best not to accept any disciples. One has to become purified at home by chanting the Hare Krsna maha-mantra and preaching the principles enunciated by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu."

(*Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Madhya-lila* 7:128, 130, purport, emphasis added)

Thus, to act as spiritual master means to stay at home, chant Hare Krishna to become purified, and not accept any disciples. So let Maharaja and all the other 80 unauthorised gurus go back to their family homes and not move from there, simply chant Hare Krishna, and not take any disciples, and we will all be happy!

The Will

"2. Each temple will be an ISKCON property and will be managed by three executive directors. The system of management will continue as it is now and there is no need of any change." (Last Will and Testament of Srila Prabhupada). The statement that the system of management should continue without change refers to the subject in point – ownership of ISKCON properties and the position of the GBC."

Again, this is just some more wishful thinking by Maharaja. The Will only says "THE system of management", not "This system of management", or "The system of management only affecting properties and the position

Janananda Goswami

of the GBC", or "The system of management as given 30 years later by Janananda Goswami" etc. Therefore, "The system of management" refers to the system of management as it was during Srila Prabhupada's physical presence, which must necessarily include how initiations would be managed, which when the Will came into effect was via the *ritvik* system set up a few months earlier on July 9th, 1977, and which would now "continue" without "any change".

July 9th, 1977 Letter

"All this letter proposes or even changes was to whom the recommendations would be sent from now on. Read it carefully. It mentions nothing about changing the system of initiation or establishing a new one."

We could not agree more that there is no mention of changing the system of initiation or establishing a new one. And what was the only system of initiation in ISKCON that everyone had known from day one? Everyone gets initiated by Srila Prabhupada, with his disciples usually helping in the initiation rituals. Maharaja's statement simply begs the question that when did Srila Prabhupada change THIS system of initiation or establish a new one? He has already admitted that what did occur, with the 11 *ritviks* becoming gurus automatically, was a "mistake".

So where is the order from Srila Prabhupada for these 11 *ritviks* to:

- give up being *ritviks*;
- change into *diksa* gurus;
- authorise other gurus via a voting system;

since steps a-c is actually what happened (known collectively as the "Great Guru Hoax, parts 1 and 2")? No order from Srila

Prabhupada which encompasses all these above 3 steps has ever been presented by the GBC or by Maharaja.

Offending Srila Prabhupada

"Another thing is that quite likely the *ritvik* proposal would not have been present had it not been for failure on the part of the initiating gurus. It wasn't even discussed before that and for a total change based on a very indecisive letter, to take place due to this, lacks real substance."

The *ritvik* proposal was always present, from the very day Srila Prabhupada authorised it in writing on July 9th, 1977, and it is because the GBC did not follow it that there was "failure on the part of the initiating gurus". That it was not discussed was due to disobedience by the Society. To call this proposal of Srila Prabhupada's "indecisive" is very offensive to Srila Prabhupada, since it is claiming that Srila Prabhupada was confused, and did not know what he wanted to do, and therefore he had his secretary send out an indecisive order on his behalf.

In addition to being offensive to Srila Prabhupada, Maharaja's assertion is also hypocritical, because when it suits him Maharaja is also happy to claim that the contents of the letter are actually quite clear and decisive, as quoted in the last section:

"All this letter proposes or even changes was to whom the recommendations would be sent from now on. Read it carefully."

Straw man

"Initiation is a necessity at some point but it's both the disciple and guru's choice. It can't be force on the guru. Hey Prabhupada I am your disciple now accept me. And here is my name...."



Srila Prabhupada:

"The GBC should all be the instructor gurus. I am the initiator guru, and you should be the instructor guru" (Letter, August 4th, 1975)

Here Maharaja states a "straw man" argument, which is attributing something to the *ritvik* position which is not actually advocated by the *ritvik* position. We are not proposing that anything is forced on Srila Prabhupada. We are simply saying that the system which Srila Prabhupada himself established for ISKCON on July 9th, 1977 be practiced. At this time he gave full power of attorney to the *ritviks* to accept disciples on his behalf without consulting him, and hence Srila Prabhupada has already exercised his choice:

Srila Prabhupada: "So without waiting for me, wherever you consider it is right... That will depend on discretion."

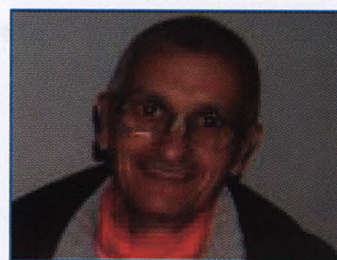
Tamala Krishna: "On discretion."
Prabhupada: "Yes."

Tamala Krishna: "That's for first and second initiations."

Prabhupada: "Hm."

(Room Conversation, July 7th, 1977)

So to follow this system is not "forcing" something on Srila Prabhupada, rather it is called "following the order of the spiritual master". Obviously, since this has been an alien concept for Maharaja and his guru colleagues for the last 30 years, we can understand why he would be confused!



Janananda Goswami: "We are the initiator gurus. Srila Prabhupada is only the instructor guru."

Siksa guru contradiction

"How I understand the situation realistically in ISKCON is that the position of Srila Prabhupada as the *siksa* guru of all must be emphasised. [...] At least in Prabhupada's purports he mentions that generally the *siksa* guru becomes the *diksa* guru. The *siksa* guru in our movement refers to all the followers of Prabhupada also and the one who inspires the devotee most to follow the instruction of Prabhupada would be the natural choice of *diksa*."

Having said that Srila Prabhupada's position as everyone's *siksa* (instructing) guru must be emphasised, and that the *siksa* guru generally then becomes the *diksa* Guru, any straight-thinking person would conclude from this that Srila Prabhupada is the natural choice of *diksa* Guru. Not Maharaja. He concludes from this the exact opposite, that Srila Prabhupada is therefore NOT the *diksa* Guru!

Conclusion

In addition to being a case study of Maharaja, the above analysis also serves as a case study of how the ISKCON gurus are still trying to dupe innocent persons into becoming their disciples by using the false arguments which were discredited and defeated long ago. Hence, it is important for every person who comes into contact with ISKCON to read *BTP* so that they may be forewarned and forearmed against the lies they will hear.

ISKCON guru hypocrisy special

ISKCON guru hypocrisy – 1

But in order to improve our attendance and attitudes at the daily *guru-puja*, we have to realize that Srila Prabhupada is present. We must pray for that realization. We should know that he is present on the *vyasasana*; and we should know that he is pleased by our enthusiastic participation. It is not a dull routine, but an opportunity to daily meet and glorify Srila Prabhupada in the most appropriate way."

(*Srila Prabhupada's Pastimes*, Satsvarupa dasa Goswami, Gita-nagari Press)

So, according to one of the original 11 ISKCON guru hoaxers, Satsvarupa Das, Srila Prabhupada is present before us and we can meet him everyday. Which then begs the question why he cannot still act as our *diksa* (initiating) Guru if he is present before us and we can meet him?

Such contradictions are par for the course, when one concocts a philosophy as one goes along (and we have given many such examples in previous issues), which seeks specifically to satisfy everyone that ISKCON is "keeping Srila Prabhupada in the centre", whilst at the same time claiming that we still need to accept their all worshipful gurus.

ISKCON guru hypocrisy – 2

"This is the first time in Vaisnava history that we see a functioning worldwide institution with a committee in charge. We are in uncharted waters! But one thing is clear. Srila Prabhupada did say we should keep the *Acarya* in the center. [...] If one of his followers, who happens to have the duty of initiating in his ISKCON society, undermines or minimizes the instructions found in his books and lectures then how can we expect a sincere Iskcon devotee not to protest, even if the one minimizing him happens to have given him initiation?"

(HH Trivikrama Swami Maharaja, 'Dandavats' website, June 18th, 2007)

Here we see that in one fell swoop, ISKCON guru HH Trivikrama Swami Maharaja has destroyed the main argument used by the GBC and himself (being a GBC voted-in guru) to justify their unauthorised guru system.

"The *ritvik* system is without precedent, and historically everyone has always had a "living guru," the GBC argue.

However, Maharaja is arguing here that we are currently in a completely unprecedented situation, that ISKCON is an unprecedented society, and therefore we are in "uncharted

waters". Given this, it would be completely illogical to argue that precedent must be the guiding principle for an institution which itself has no precedent!

Further, Maharaja also argues that it is the duty of any disciple to protest against his guru if he feels the guru is undermining Srila Prabhupada's instructions. This means that Maharaja is giving the green light to every ISKCON member to join the IRM and reject their gurus once they discover that their gurus are indeed not just minimising but actually rejecting Srila Prabhupada's instructions, since there exists no instruction for them to have become their gurus in the first place! For there is no instruction from Srila Prabhupada authorising his disciples to replace him as the Guru of ISKCON, but there are instructions from him keeping him as ISKCON's *diksa* Guru (see *The Final Order* and all previous BTP issues!).

Again we see such statements are generated by the need to camouflage the ISKCON guru system with the cover that "Srila Prabhupada is in the centre", as seen in the previous example. Therefore, do not expect Maharaja to agree with his own words and ask his disciples to return to Srila Prabhupada anytime soon!

ISKCON guru hypocrisy – 3

"It is essential to have direct personal interaction with one's guru so that one can make sure that one is actually satisfying the spiritual master by one's attitude, one's words, and one's actions [...] The guru therefore needs to be physically present to directly answer the questions of his disciples."

(Sankarshan Das, May 20th, 2007)

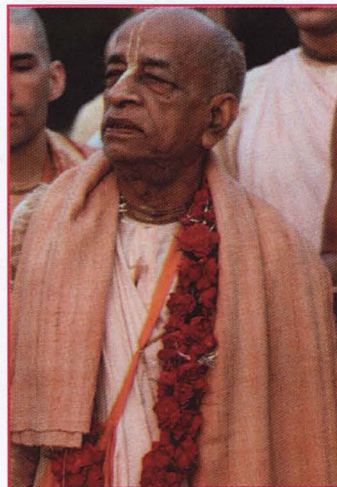
Sankarshan Das, a GBC voted-in guru, made the above pitch to convince people that the "*ritvik*" position is wrong, and therefore one needs to accept him as a guru because one can associate with him "personally". However, since HE has not associated with HIS guru Srila Prabhupada for 30 years, how does he know he was pleasing Srila Prabhupada from 1977 onwards? And HE obviously has not had his Guru answer HIS questions for 30 years either. So it is the height of hypocrisy for him to argue that we must accept HIM as our guru because we must have personal association with the guru to get guidance, when he himself does not believe this, having not had such personal association for 30 years. And conversely, if he has been able to adequately associate with his Guru, Srila Prabhupada, for 30 years, then why can't anyone else do so as well? Unless Sankarshan prabhu can prove that on November 15th, 1977, the day after Srila Prabhupada departed, he was issued with a special, secret, unique two-way "spiritual" walkie-talkie, which allowed him alone to directly ask Srila Prabhupada questions and get answers regarding whether or not he was pleasing him, he would do well to stop spouting such hypocritical nonsense. It is already bad enough that he has occupied Srila Prabhupada's position as initiating guru in ISKCON without Srila Prabhupada's authorisation.



Satsvarupa Das:
Keeping Srila Prabhupada
in the centre?



Trivikrama Swami:
Keeping Srila Prabhupada
in the centre?



Srila Prabhupada:
ISKCON's gurus keeping
him out of the centre

ISKCON guru hypocrisy – 4

Fact 1: In the mid-1980s, Caru Das becomes a GBC endorsed guru as part of the Great Guru Hoax part 2:

"4. The GBC gives its blessings to those who have begun to give formal initiations since September, 1985. They are as follows: [...]"

7. Caru das Adhikari - Los Angeles, Utah"
(GBC Resolutions, 1986)

Fact 2: A recent GBC list of their approved gurus continues to have Caru Das's name, and on April 29th, 2007, he initiates 3 devotees:

"Then, Bhakta Blake, Bhakta Justin, and Bhaktin Mikela were no more, but now Bharat Das, Jairam Das, and Mekala Devi, as Caru returned them their japa beads, and well wishing devotees tied their kunti mala around their necks. [...] A fair number of devotees from Utah have been initiated in the last 20 years, but none from Spanish Fork and nearby Payson"
(Website of Utah Krishna Temple, Temple President Caru Das)

Fact 3: Caru Das attends the 2007 ISKCON North America Temple Presidents and GBC meetings as the Temple President for the Temple in Utah:

"North American Temple presidents and GBC (Governing Board Commission) meetings were held in Houston Thursday thru Saturday. I went to the first day and a half. [...] Friday morning Amarendra, the attorney, explained the drafting of bylaws in progress designed to protect temple properties..."

(Caru Das, Report, 20th May, 2007)

Fact 4: Bhakta Justin/Jairama Das, one of the persons initiated by Caru Das mentioned in Fact 2 above, states the following about Caru Das, and his initiation:

"He (Caru Das) is not currently a GBC approved initiating guru. He does not support the GBC and does not recognize their authority. [...] The only reason I took initiation

from him was because he told me that although he was not a ritvik authorized by Srila Prabhupada he would give me initiation on his behalf. If that was alright with me. He does not allow Guru puja and he tells us all that Srila Prabhupada is our spiritual master and that we can associate with him by reading his books, listening to his lectures, and watching video footage of him."

(Bhakta Justin/Jairama Das, E-mail, June 20th, 2007)

So this raises the following questions:

a) Are the GBC in illusion about the real "ritvik-anti-GBC" status of Caru Das, having claimed on the one hand that they wish to protect ISKCON temples from "ritviks", and on the other they happily invite him to their meetings where such matters are discussed? Or are the GBC happy now to welcome "ritviks" who do not recognize their authority to their confidential meetings, and if so could we get an invite to their meetings please?!

b) Or has Caru Das been telling different stories depending on who he is speaking to? To keep those who he is initiating happy, he tells them he is anti-GBC and is giving a ritvik initiation on behalf of Srila Prabhupada, whilst to keep in the good graces of ISKCON, and get invited along to their meetings, he portrays himself as a loyal company man? Either way, why are we not surprised to find such an air of duplicity and confusion surrounding the affairs of the GBC and their "gurus"?

By the way, one practice that Caru Das does share with ISKCON, highlighted repeatedly in BTP, is the trend towards demigod worship, for Caru Das advertises himself as a "Priest" able to perform pujas (worship rituals) for "Lakshmi", "Shiva" and "Ganesh", as well as for "New Business", "Prosperity", and even for "New Vehicles"! (see also BTP 11 for further evidence of ISKCON issuing "automobile blessings").

ISKCON guru hypocrisy – 5

HH Bhakti Caru Swami ("BCS") recently made the following comments about Narayana Maharaja, a Gaudiya Matha guru who is competing with the ISKCON gurus to take devotees away from Srila Prabhupada:

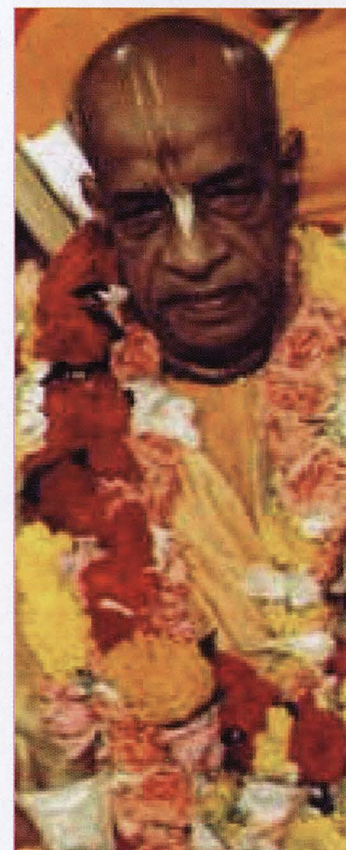
"One of the most damaging attack is his claim that he is the real successor of Srila Prabhupada. If that is the case, then why did he not make that claim for so many years? It is only recently, in the late-nineties, when the leading devotees disassociated themselves from him, that he took this stand. If all these points are clearly explained to the devotees who are naturally quite intelligent, I am confident that they will understand." (BCS Letter, June 27th, 2007)

But exactly the same can be said about GBC voted-in guru Gaura Govinda Swami's ("GGS") claim, made for the first time in 1989, as detailed in BTP 15, that Srila Prabhupada had appointed him guru by a secret whisper in 1977. And this claim was only made in 1989 because by then so many gurus had fallen and the system was in turmoil, and he saw an opportunity to stake his claim. But BCS never criticised GGS for doing this, but rather glorifies him as an "exalted disciple of Srila Prabhupada" (see BTP 14, back page). A clear double standard. And, as BCS says, anyone who is "intelligent" will "understand" the dubiousness of such belated "claims", whether made by "gurus" outside or inside ISKCON.

BCS also states:

"Maharaja may be a very charismatic personality, [...] So if we remind our devotees of the importance of Srila Prabhupada's role in their life and the importance of their being sheltered by ISKCON, I am sure that many devotees will understand and will not go away, being allured by him."

(BCS Letter, June 27th, 2007)



**Srila Prabhupada:
Invoked only to fend
off competitor gurus
to ISKCON gurus!**

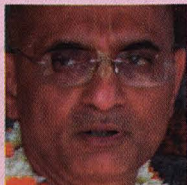
So to counteract a guru from outside ISKCON, Srila Prabhupada is suddenly reeled out, and for ISKCON members "the importance of Srila Prabhupada's role in their life" is emphasised; but to promote themselves as "living guru successors" to Srila Prabhupada, the ISKCON gurus have de-emphasised "Srila Prabhupada's role in their life" for ISKCON members, otherwise they would have not a guru role. So we cannot take a guru outside ISKCON because we need Srila Prabhupada, but we must take a guru inside ISKCON because Srila Prabhupada is not enough! How long do the GBC think people will buy such hypocrisy? They should either return ISKCON to Srila Prabhupada and thereby save it, or continue promoting that "we need a living successor to Srila Prabhupada" and watch people leave ISKCON for better and more "charismatic", "living successors" than ISKCON can offer.

Yet more ISKCON guru hypocrisy

HH Bhakti Caru Swami admits he is not acting as *diksa* guru

"Generally, a guru establishes a link between Krsna and his disciple. However, in ISKCON, I very strongly believe that our responsibility is to help you approach the lotus feet of Srila Prabhupada, and Srila Prabhupada, as the pre-eminent acarya, takes you to Krsna and engages you in His service." (BCS Istaghosti, June 10th, 2007, Text PAMHO:13658994)

When Srila Prabhupada was physically present on the planet, the job of everyone in ISKCON, even if he was just a *bhakta* (new devotee) was the same, and this was to help people approach Srila Prabhupada's lotus feet, who then as the Guru would take that person to Krishna as his disciple. Above Bhakti Caru Swami (BCS) admits:



HH Bhakti Caru Swami

*** That a Guru takes a disciple to Krishna.**

*** That Srila Prabhupada does this in ISKCON.**

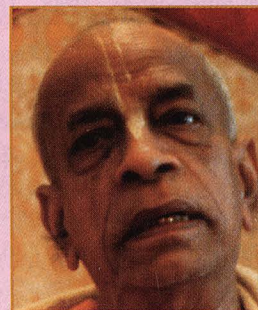
*** That everyone in ISKCON only helps bring people to Srila Prabhupada.**

Yet BCS, as a GBC voted-in ISKCON guru, concludes from the above facts that:

*** BCS is the Guru.**

*** The people he takes to Srila Prabhupada are BCS's disciples.**

*** And Srila Prabhupada is not the Guru.**



Therefore, even though BCS admits that Srila Prabhupada's physical departure has not resulted in any change to how he functions, he has, however, decided to change Srila Prabhupada's position as the *diksa* Guru, and instead occupy that position for himself and claim Srila Prabhupada's disciples as his. It is one thing to usurp Srila Prabhupada's position and steal his disciples. But to openly admit that one has no justification for doing this, and still continue, requires a level of cheating and hypocrisy that can only flourish in *Kaliyuga*- the Age of Hypocrisy.

ISKCON guru rules out his own tape ministry

A GBC voted-in guru, His Holiness Gour (Gaura) Govinda Swami (GGS), who died in 1996, is eulogized by ISKCON today as a great saint, with his *murti* (effigy) installed in ISKCON temples, and his books sold in ISKCON temples and at ISKCON festivals. To afford GGS such a high level of awe and reverence would require the GBC to, of course, also fully endorse all the teachings of GGS. One of his teachings is the following:

Devotee #1: *Sabda-brahma* is Krishna in sound vibration?

Gour Govinda Swami: Yes. One has to hear. It is not that, "All right, tapes are there, I'll hear the recorded tapes." *Sabda-brahma* will never descend.

Devotee #2: It doesn't descend through transmission of tape?

Gour Govinda Swami: No, no. [...] You should be greedy. Physical contact is required.

You must hear directly, not just by listening to tapes. *Sabda-brahma* will never descend through a tape.

One must hear from a physically present Sri Guru. (HH Gour Govinda Swami, 'Q&A', *The Worship of Sri Guru*, chapter 3)



This raises the following obvious points:

- Why then did GGS allow his talks to be recorded on tape for his disciples to hear? Why are they still listening to, and distributing such tapes now?
- Why are the GBC disobeying the teachings of this person who they have proclaimed as a great *acarya* (guru), by promoting the distribution of tapes of Srila Prabhupada, and their own voted-in gurus, which give no value? How can the GBC claim to be preaching the absolute truth, if they cannot even decide a simple point such as whether or not *sabda-brahma* can be delivered through recorded sound vibration?

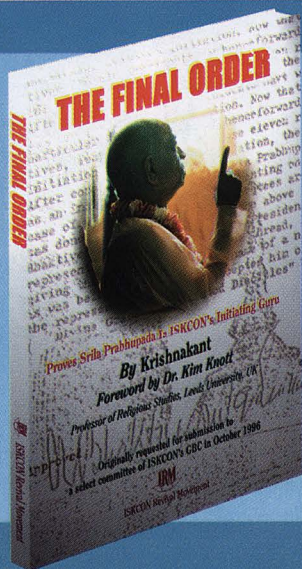
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